

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/812,893

Examiner

Matthew Bradley

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2187

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 27 April 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action has been issued in response to amendment filed 27 April 2007. Applicant's arguments have been carefully and fully considered and are persuasive.

Claim Status

Claims 1-23 remain pending and are ready for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art made of record fails to teach the combination including the limitation of:

(Claim 1) "...a power saving mode execution section which refers to said access time stored in said memory and sets a number of said hard disk drives according to the redundancy of said RAID group to a power saving mode when the difference between a current time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time. ...";

(Claim 8) "...a power saving mode execution section which refers to said access time stored in said memory, sets, for a RAID group whose difference between a second time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time, a number of said first hard disk drives according to disk drive redundancy of said RAID group to a power saving mode when said RAID group consists of only said first hard disk drives and sets an arbitrary number of said second hard disk drives to a

power saving mode when said RAID group consists of only said second hard disk drives;...”;

(Claim 20) “...a step of setting a number of said first hard disk drives according to disk drive redundancy of said RAID group to a power saving mode when said RAID group whose difference between the second time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time consists of only said first hard disk drives;...”;

(Claim 21) “...a power saving mode execution section which refers to said access time stored in said memory and sets a number of said hard disk drives of said RAID group as less than a total number of said hard disk drives constituting said RAID group to a power saving mode when the difference between a current time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time. ...”;

(Claim 22) “...a power saving mode execution section which refers to said access time stored in said memory, sets, for a RAID group whose difference between a second time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time, a number of said first hard disk drives of said RAID group as less than a total number of said first hard disk drives constituting said RAID group to a power saving mode when said RAID group consists of only said first hard disk drives and sets an arbitrary number of said second hard disk drives to a power saving mode when said RAID group consists of only said second hard disk drives;...”;

(Claim 23) “...a step of setting a number of said first hard disk drives of said RAID group as less than a total number of said first hard disk drives constituting said

RAID group to a power saving mode when said RAID group whose difference between the second time acquired from said time counting mechanism and said access time exceeds a certain time consists of only said first hard disk drives;...”;

As dependent claims **2-7** and **9-19** depend from an allowable base claim; they are at least allowable for the same reasons as noted *supra*.

The prior art made of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above-recited combinations for at least the reasons specified and as shown in Applicant's Arguments filed 27 April 2007.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 27 April 2007 have been carefully and fully considered, and are persuasive. As noted *supra* the case is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew Bradley whose telephone number is (571) 272-8575. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald A. Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone

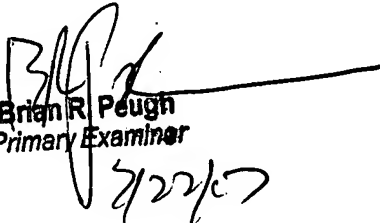
Art Unit: 2187

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BRP/mb

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Brian R. Peugh
Primary Examiner

5/22/07